

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. SPD leaders in Berlin believe that the Berlin riots of 16-17 June may possibly have been engineered in their inception in order to force the issue with the SED Politbüro, where proponents of a repressive policy are not reconciled to the ostensibly peaceful course ascribed to High Commissioner V. S. Semenov. This line, it is thought, was agreed on in Moscow during the tenure of P. F. Yudin as political adviser in Germany, and had as its climax the removal of General Ghuikov. Semenov's position will probably not be affected by the current situation; but the removal of Walter Ulbricht from his position of influence is predicted, since the Russians are looking for scapegoats who can be blamed for the chaotic situation in East Germany. One Socialist leader suggests that Minister President Otto Grotewohl may be replaced by Hermann Kastner (LDP), who has been kept in reserve by the Soviet authorities for such an emergency. ¹
2. The SPD has decided not to recommend a general strike in East Germany, since it believes the present government, dominated by Ulbricht, is on the way out.
3. It is pointed out that until widespread rioting commenced, little control action was undertaken by any security forces. Then Soviet troops were used for the repressive measures, while the KVP was kept in its barracks. It is believed that the Russians

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are determined to repress the uprising at all costs, as they have done in other places where the population publicly defied the régime.

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- 25X1 1. Comment: [] observers believe the uprising was spontaneous, in view of the extensive damage and the fact that the Russians fired on the participants. The repression of the riot, however, does not necessarily mean that Semenov's "peace" line will be changed; in fact, this line would seem to be more valuable to the Russians for the present than a sudden reversion to strong-arm tactics.

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